

LORRAINE LAVENDER
1060 Broad Street #445
Newark, N. J. 07102

October 19, 2004

Ms. Shirley Cole
Project Manager,
Essex Plaza One
HUD
Newark Office 13th Floor
One Newark Center
Raymond Boulevard
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Dear Ms. Cole:

This letter is in response to your telephone call on Monday, October 18th in which you advised me that myself and Mr. Botoe seem to be the only ones complaining about the conditions here at 1060 Broad Street. Let me explain this phenomenon to you. Since we are the people who were elected to represent the One Essex Plaza Tenants Association, Inc., the tenants complain to us, therefore we try to tell you what problems we are facing. However, if you wish, I will give the tenants your telephone number so that they can call you directly. However, you will probably tell them that they are the only tenants that have a problem. This is one of the same tactics that slum landlords have used for years. Not only does it discourage the tenants from voicing their complaints, but it effectively allows these landlords to continue business as usual.

Obviously you are not aware that for three years we had been denied use of our community room. In addition, your office has refused to prevent the management from interfering with our organization. Although you have tried to keep us from functioning, we have continued to try to overcome the obstacles that are continually put in our way. I for one am sick and tired of being mistreated by you so called authorities. Why don't you see the harm you are doing to your people by denying tenants redress for the many problems we are facing?

As long as I can remember I have been a decent housing advocate. Since the era of David and Moe Silver, well connected attorneys in Newark, whom I had to take to the Division on Civil Rights to get an apartment on Hill Street, right in front of City Hall.

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Why is the Newark HUD Office still oppressing the residents of Newark? Perhaps hearing from me will not look so terrible now. What we need is your cooperation in changing the way your office deals with our very real problems.

Yours truly,

Lorraine Lavender

Chair of the Board of OEPTA

cc: HUD Inspector General

Frank Hutchins

Stephan Botoc, President OEPTA